

supposed antiquity of their formation, inasmuch as the phenomena of geology, and the testimony of both sacred and profane history, “tell us in  
 “a language easily understood, though written  
 “in far different characters, that man is a re-  
 “cent sojourner on the surface of the earth”  
 (p. 35).

## SECT. VI.

### *Metals.*

THE atmosphere, and the vegetable, and animal kingdoms, being three out of the four general departments of the external world, are most extensively necessary to the welfare, if not to the very existence, of every individual: but even communities of men, in an uncivilized state indeed, have existed, and in some parts of the earth are still existing, without any further aid from the mineral kingdom than that, which the common soil affords to the growth of the food which supports them. But a civilized state of society is the natural destination of man; and such a state of society is incapable of arising or being maintained, without the aid of mineral substances: and this assertion holds more particularly with respect to the *metallic* species.

In that department of civilized intercourse which consists in the exchange of the commodities of life, what other substance could be an equivalent substitute for gold and silver, or even